Unfolding the Twin-ness of the Between

Georges Teyssot

Abstract:

This essay explores the theoretical definitions of the “intérieur,” of the threshold and of the fold, from Athanasius Kircher, Johannes Zahn, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, to Charles Baudelaire, André Gide, Walter Benjamin, and Gilles Deleuze. It proceeds with an analysis of mirrors, windows, frames, and other specular devices that multiply the interior. This leads to a review of contemporary readings (and mis-readings) of the Heideggerian “Zweifalt,” or “double fold”, and introduces to an exploration of the twain of “between” and to a discussion of current theories of the “Zwischenraum”, the “space in-between”. Lastly, through readings of Gilles Deleuze and Michel de Certeau, this essay brings in the distinction between a sedentary law (to distribute according to rules) and a nomadic law (to spread in a aleatory manner on a limitless space), opening up to the promises of an ethical mode of inhabitation. As a tentative conclusion, in order to fully grasp the new condition of places that mediate, one must deal with the situation of our “body” in society. No longer it seems possible to base oneself on metaphysical, traditional and fallacious oppositions such as interior/exterior, public/private, organ/function, because with the introduction of new technologies those distinctions have blurred. At issue, then, would be projects that retrace the various “folds” our bodies weave with the world.